

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant amends the title and the specification to correct informalities noted in the Office Action. Applicant also submits a Terminal Disclaimer. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 2 are pending in this application.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Title

The title has been amended to correct informalities noted in the Office Action. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the objection to the title of the application be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification

The specification has also been amended to correct informalities noted in the Office Action. Applicant also respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Rejections Under Double Patenting

The Office Action indicated that claims 1 and 2 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,707,327 and claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent 6,570,417. The Examiner stated that "[a]lthough the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because of the claims of the instant application are fully anticipated by (i.e., read directly on) the claims of the two prior patents.

Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,707,327 and U.S. Patent No. 6,570,417. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting has been fully accommodated and should be withdrawn.

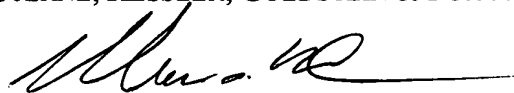
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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